From: VictorWBolie@aol.com@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/11/02 1:02pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

The Honorable Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice
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    The Attorney General of the State of Iowa, Thomas Miller, JD, has
suggested that I forward to your office my thoughts on the above case with
respect to the DOJ objective (2), i.e. "to spark competition in this
industry".

    I am a recently retired engineering professor, with earlier experience
in computers & electronics at Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, IA and as
Chairman of the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department at the
University of New Mexico -- and listed in Who's Who in America. With respect
to the pending Microsoft antitrust case, I would like to offer my support for
long-needed competition in the design of better and more open computer
operating systems.

    Forty-five years ago with the help of a well qualified engineering team
I developed, with approval and cooperation from the Cedar Rapids IBM office,
a computer operating system specialized to handle the mathematical equations
routinely used by scientists and engineers like those at Collins. The key to
its long string of successes was IBM's permission to study the detailed
"innards" of their business machine processor & storage hardware, to enable
the development of an optimized (and easy to use) set of simple links to the
outside world. In all of the years elapsed since then, I have not seen an
operating system of comparable capability and simplicity -- even with the
subsequent major improvements in hardware speed, memory, printers, telelinks,
and mouse-controlled displays. A few software companies, under Microsoft
Windows restrictions, have tried to produce mathematically adequate programs
for equation computations, graphical plotting, and scientific text
composition -- but in my view they all lack user flexibility and are clumsy
to use.

    For example, for years in Windows, to even shut OFF the machine you have
to press START, press SHUT DOWN, press OK. And you cannot even delete the
"MSN Internet Access" icon advertising Microsoft. I have been unable to find
any mathematical capability above the level of simple (and clumsy)
arithmetic. The add-on called Visual Basic is totally inadequate in my
judgment. Also, real privacy and security on the internet are fictional.
Cookies and unapproved sales of your interest profile should be outlawed --
no one should be able to load anything into your machine without your
specific approval of the text in advance every time. Almost any software
specialist could quickly remedy these and other defects if he or she could

have open access to the programming code at the fundamental chip level.

In order to foster the commercial competition necessary for the evolution of new ideas in operating system software, I believe that any settlement with Microsoft should require a COMPLETELY stripped down operating system that makes it easy for anyone to develop his or her own way of handling equations, data, text, graphs, pictures, sound, and interfaces to lab bench equipment. This would quickly clear out the impediments to the development of new economic growth in the computer hardware and software markets. For example, if linked to a simplified "open book" Windows operating system, an improved-and-flexibilized version of the True Basic compute & plot system developed years ago at Dartmouth would in my opinion result in rapidly expanding markets in science, engineering, and education.

Thank you for considering my rather elementary contribution. After all these years I am still hoping for a remedy that does more than simply resolving the current internet-access problem.

Victor W. Bolie, PhD

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